



WYOMING BOARD OF REGISTRATION FOR PROFESSIONAL GEOLOGISTS

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1997 AMENDMENTS TO THE GEOLOGIST'S PRACTICE ACT

Senate Enrolled Act No. 73 (Chapter 170) signed by the Governor of Wyoming on March 1, 1997, changed the existing statutes (W.S. §33-41-101 through W.S. §33-41-121) from a title act to a practice act as well. The new statutes, which are effective July 1, 1997, require the licensure of any geologist practicing before the public in Wyoming. The "practice of geology before the public", as defined in W.S. §33-41-102(a)(vi), means the performance of geological services or work including consultation, investigation, evaluation, planning, preparation of geologic reports and maps, the inspection of geological work, and the responsible supervision of geological services or work, the performance of which is relevant to public welfare or the safeguard of life, health, property, and the environment, unless exempted under the act.

ANSWERS TO FREQUENT QUESTIONS REGARDING THE NEW ACT

- *It establishes another one-year "grandfathering" period (July 1, 1997 - June 30, 1998), during which qualified applicants will not need to take the board's examinations. They will still need to meet all educational and experience requirements.*
- *It exempts geologists working in the extractive mineral industries (coal, oil, gas, uranium, etc.) as well as those teaching or in research as long as their activities do not meet the definition of "practice before the public".*
- *Non-licensed geologists are still able to work under the direction of a licensed geologist.*
- *It recognizes those of you already licensed under the existing act. You won't have to re-apply!*

A booklet containing the new Wyoming Geologists Practice Act and the newly promulgated rules (see below) will be printed and mailed with your 1998 Renewal Notices in September of 1997. In the interim, copies of Senate Enrolled Act No. 73 (Chapter 170) can be obtained by contacting the Board office as shown below.

PROPOSED RULE CHANGES

The Wyoming Board of Professional Geologists has proposed rule changes in order to bring its existing rules into compliance with the new amendments noted above. In addition, the new rules clarify some parts of the existing rules and eliminate other unnecessary parts. Copies of the proposed rule changes may be obtained in person at:

The Basko Building
777 West First Street
Casper Wyoming

or

The Wyoming Board of Professional Geologists Office
Wyoming Geological Survey Building, UW Campus
Laramie Wyoming.

You may also request copies from the Board office by phone at (307) 766-2490 or by mail:

WY Board of Professional Geologists
PO Box 3008
Laramie WY 82071-3008

The Board of Professional Geologists welcomes all comments and suggestions on the proposed changes to its rules and regulations. Interested parties should present their views in writing to the Laramie address of the Board noted above, to arrive no later than 5:00 p.m. on June 1, 1997. Any person may urge the Board not to adopt the rules and may also request the Board to state its reasons for overruling the consideration urged against adoption. Written requests for a statement of the Board's position regarding each comment and the action taken as a result of the comments must be made prior to, or within 30 days after adoption of the rules. These requests should be sent to the Board at its Laramie address.

WHY DOES THE BOARD REQUIRE ANNUAL RENEWALS?

While it may seem like a nuisance to require an annual renewal of licenses, this requirement prevents several problems. First, a licensee's cash outlay is kept small. Secondly, it helps keep addresses current in this very mobile society. And thirdly, if a license remains delinquent for more than two years, an individual has to go through the entire licensure process again. This could be a problem when someone moves and forgets to provide his or her new address. Tracking a person down two years after they move is difficult, if not impossible. Consequently, by the time the Board is able to track this licensee's address down, it would be too late for the licensee to reinstate his or her delinquent license.

THE CORRECT SEALING OF DOCUMENTS

In order to clarify questions regarding the correct sealing of documents, the Board is proposing to amend Chapter IV, Section II, Subsections (d) and (e) in the Board's Rules and Regulations to read:

(d) *An imprint of the licensee's valid seal shall appear on the cover page of geologic reports or other geologic documents bound in book form as well as on each and every sheet of unbound geologic drawings, cross sections, or maps prepared by or under the responsible charge or direct supervision of the licensee whenever these documents are relevant to public welfare or the safeguard of life, health, property, and the environment, pursuant to W.S. 33-41-102(a)(vi).*

Superimposed over the imprint of the seal shall be the signature of the licensee and the date signed.

(e) *Any work sealed and signed by a licensee must have been prepared by that licensee or by someone under the responsible charge or direct supervision of the licensee. After-the-fact ratification by the sealing of documents (without thorough technical review by the licensee), when the underlying work was not performed by or under the responsible charge and supervision of the licensee, is prohibited.*

Reminder: If the license of a professional geologist is expired, his or her seal cannot be placed on any work until the license has been reinstated. Also, in the case of a name change or if a replacement or additional seal is required, the licensee must submit an impression or stamp of the new seal to the Board for its approval.

USE OF "GIT" OR "GEOLOGIST-IN-TRAINING" AS A TITLE

In order to clarify questions regarding the proper use of "G.I.T." OR "GEOLOGIST-IN-TRAINING" as a title, the Board is proposing to amend Chapter III, Section 6, Subsection (g) in the Board's Rules and Regulations to read:

(g) *Geologists, who are certified as geologists-in-training in Wyoming, may use "G.I.T." or "Geologist-in-training" as a title after their name, providing these designations are not used in conjunction with their file number or preceded by the word "licensed" or any other words that might lead someone to believe they are licensed as a professional geologist.*

E X A M S

ASBOG NATIONAL EXAMINATION DATES (subject to change)	States now using the National Examination prepared by ASBOG:	In addition, Wyoming has reviewed and accepted current or older state examinations from:
April 18, 1997	Alabama	Arizona
September 19, 1997	Arizona	California
April 17, 1998	Georgia	Florida
September 18, 1998	Kentucky	Idaho
	Missouri	Virginia
	North Carolina	
	Oregon	Georgia
	Pennsylvania	North Carolina
	South Carolina	Oregon
	Wisconsin	
	Wyoming	